

CLAIMS:

1. (previously amended) A method comprising a switching element performing the steps of:

receiving, from a party engaged in an active call, a user-initiated request for transfer of the call from a first communication unit to a pre-provisioned second communication unit associated with the party;

responsive to the request, consulting a database to determine the second communication unit;

while maintaining a telephonic connection to the first communication unit, attempting to establish a telephonic connection to the second communication unit;

if the connection to the second communication unit is established, dropping the connection to the first communication unit, thereby transferring the call from the first communication unit to the second communication unit of the party.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a request for transfer is accomplished without receiving a directory number of the second communication unit.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first communication unit comprises a mobile phone and the second communication unit comprises a landline phone associated with the party.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first communication unit comprises a landline phone and the second communication unit comprises a mobile phone of the party.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the connection to the second communication unit is not established:

sending a message to the first communication unit indicating that the requested transfer did not occur.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of consulting a database comprises consulting the database to determining a directory number of the second communication unit.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising:  
determining a directory number of the first communication unit;  
consulting a database to determine an enablement status of the first communication unit to invoke a call transfer to the second communication unit;  
if the first communication unit is not enabled to invoke the call transfer, sending a message to the first communication unit indicating that the requested transfer is not enabled.

8. (previously amended) A method comprising a switching element performing steps of:  
receiving, from a first communication unit, a user-initiated call transfer request;  
responsive to the call transfer request, consulting a database including indicia of the first communication unit and indicia of a second communication unit to which call transfers may be directed from the first communication unit, the switching element identifying the second communication unit coincident to consulting the database; and  
transferring the call from the first communication unit to the second communication unit.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the first communication unit comprises a mobile phone and the second communication unit comprises a landline phone associated with a party.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the first communication unit comprises a landline phone and the second communication unit comprises a mobile phone of the party.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of receiving a call transfer request is accomplished without receiving a directory number of the second communication unit.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of transferring the call comprises:  
while maintaining a telephonic connection to the first communication unit, establishing a  
telephonic connection to the second communication unit;  
after the connection to the second communication unit is established, dropping the  
connection to the first communication unit.